

The International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act (IFSEA)

BILL SUMMARY

IFSEA would harmonize the enforcement provisions of federal statutes that implement our fisheries agreements with other nations in order to strengthen international fisheries enforcement.

The provisions of this bill would:

- Simplify National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Coast Guard authority to enforce the requirements of international fisheries agreements to which the U.S. is a party;
- Provide for the enforcement of statutes that implement U.S. obligations under international fisheries agreements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act;
- Authorize the Secretary of Commerce to maintain and make public a list of vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing and authorize appropriate action against listed vessels consistent with applicable U.S. and international laws in all ports of the United States or its territories;
- Amend the High Seas Driftnet Act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to deny port access to IUU fishing vessels from nations listed under the new nation certification procedures (for IUU fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources) authorized in Section 403 of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act;
- Promote smarter, more efficient enforcement intergovernmental capabilities through the use of an International Fisheries Enforcement taskforce, thereby enhancing interagency cooperation and sharing of resources and information; and
- Make other technical and clarifying amendments to various statutes to improve and streamline program performance and rulemaking processes and facilitate information sharing.